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RESPONSE AFTER FINAL
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
EXAMINING GROUP 1742

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of:

Confirmation No.: 9089

ISHIDA et al.

Art Unit: 1742

Application No.: 09/673,235

Examiner: Sikyin Ip

Filed: December 1, 2000

Attorney Dkt. No.: 100725-00017

For: SPRING WITH EXCELLENT FATIGUE ENDURANCE PROPERTY
AND SURFACE TREATMENT METHOD FOR PRODUCING THE SPRING

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

Commissioner for Patents
BOX AF
Washington, D.C. 20231

Date: March 24, 2003
(March 23, 2003 = Sunday)

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed October 23, 2002, the due date for which has been extended two months, from January 23, 2003 to March 23, 2003 which was a Sunday, with the attached Petition for Extension of Time, applicants request that the application be amended as set forth below.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the following claims.

1. (Amended Twice) A spring surface treatment method, comprising the steps of:

(A) nitriding a surface layer of a spring;

10/B
NE
03/27/03